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Territorial and Settlement Characteristics of the Dynamics of Population Ageing in the Republic of Crimea (2014–2021)

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Abstract

Introduction. The relevance of the study is mainly due to the fact that the analysis of the dynamics of the population aging process, as well as its territorial characteristics, plays an important role in the process of determining various complex plans for the development of territories, from individual settlements to macroregions and entire states. The purpose of the study is to determine the spatial features of dynamics of population ageing of the Crimean Peninsula in the last inter-census period (2014–2021), which, in turn, makes it possible to assess further prospects for its transformation at the level of leading cities and administrative regions.

Materials and Methods. Using the complex method of Z. Dlugosh, the population aging dynamics index of all municipalities of the peninsula was calculated, they were classified by the type of age structure, as well as by the level of intensity and direction of its transformation. Statistical analysis methods such as summary, grouping, as well as correlation and regression analysis of the obtained statistical data also acted as a research tool. The foundation of the information base of the study was the materials of the All-Russian Population Census 2014 and 2020 (2021) in the Republic of Crimea.

Results. It has been established that all municipalities of the Republic of Crimea are characterized by an old age structure of the population, which varies in the range from moderately old to very old. In the dynamic aspect on the peninsula for the analyzed period, municipalities can be distinguished with a trend of slow and moderate rejuvenation (respectively 28 and 8% of the total number of municipalities), slow and moderate aging (56 and 4%, respectively). Their placement did not record both distinct spatial patterns (territorial zoning) and noticeable differences between urban districts and rural areas (levels and forms of settlement).

Discussion and Conclusion. In the nearest future, there is no need to talk about a significant transformation of the types of age structure in the municipalities of Crimea, since in more than 90% of municipalities with a very old age structure of the population, there is currently a tendency towards either slow or moderate aging, and a number of municipalities with moderately old and old age structure also maintain the trend towards population aging.

Keywords: Republic of Crimea, municipalities, settlement system, aging index, aging dynamics index, ethnodemographic composition

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Оригинальное теоретическое исследование

Территориально-расселенческие особенности динамики процесса старения населения Республики Крым (2014–2021 гг.)

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Аннотация

Введение. Актуальность исследования обусловлена главным образом тем, что анализ динамики процесса старения населения, а также его территориальных особенностей играет важную роль в процессе определения различных комплексных планов развития территорий, начиная от отдельных поселений до макрорегионов и целых государств. Цель исследования состоит в определении пространственных особенностей динамики процесса старения населения Крымского полуострова в последний межпереписный период (2014–2021 гг.), что в свою очередь позволяет оценить дальнейшие перспективы его трансформации на уровне ведущих городов и административных районов.

Материалы и методы. С помощью комплексной методики З. Длугоша рассчитан индекс динамики старения (WSD) населения всех муниципальных образований полуострова, выполнена их классификация по типу возрастной структуры, а также по уровню интенсивности и направленности ее трансформации. В качестве инструментария исследования также выступили такие методы статистического анализа, как сводка, группировка, а также корреляционный и регрессионный анализ полученных статистических данных. Основу информационной базы исследования составили материалы Всероссийской переписи населения 2014 и 2020 (2021) гг. по Республике Крым.

Результаты исследования. Установлено, что для всех муниципальных образований Республики Крым свойственна старая возрастная структура населения, которая варьируется в диапазоне от умеренно старой до очень старой. В динамическом аспекте на полуострове за анализируемый период можно выделить муниципальные образования с тенденцией медленного и умеренного омоложения (соответственно 28 и 8 % от общего количества муниципальных образований), медленного и умеренного старения (56 и 4 % соответственно). В их размещении не фиксировалось как отчетливых пространственных закономерностей (территориальной зональности), так и заметных различий между городскими округами и сельскими районами (уровнями и формами расселения).

Обсуждение и заключение. В ближайшей перспективе о значительной трансформации типов возрастной структуры в муниципальных образованиях Крыма говорить не приходится, поскольку более чем в 90 % муниципальных образований с очень старой возрастной структурой населения в настоящее время наблюдается тенденция либо медленного, либо умеренного старения, а ряд муниципальных образований с умеренно старой и старой возрастной структурой также сохраняют тренд на старение населения.

Ключевые слова: Республика Крым, муниципальные образования, система расселения, индекс старения, индекс динамики старения, этнодемографический состав

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Introduction. The process of gradual aging of the population, to one degree or another characteristic of all modern modernized societies, is comprehensively related to the functioning of the main segments of social infrastructure, largely determines the vectors for the development of local health care, education, and pension systems. In this regard, the analysis of the dynamics of the population aging process, its territorial features, is of direct practical importance in the development of comprehensive plans for the development of territories of any taxonomic level from individual settlements to macroregions and entire states.

The objectives of our study include an analysis of the territorial and settlement features of the dynamics of population ageing in the Republic of Crimea by classifying the municipalities of the peninsula by the types of the population age structure, as well as by the degree of intensity and transformation vectors of its age structure; identification of the main territorial and settlement features of this process in the Russian period of the republic's development.

The chronological framework of the study is due not only to the fact that the entry of Crimea into Russia in the spring of 2014 opened a new stage in its demographic, ethnocultural, socio-economic development [1, p. 126], but also significant discrepancies in the series of Ukrainian and Russian periods.

The results of the study make it possible to record the spatial features of the dynamics of population aging process of the Crimean Peninsula in the last inter-census period (2014–2021), which also makes it possible to assess further prospects for its transformation at the level of leading cities and administrative regions.

Research review and information base. Some aspects of the problem of interest to us were touched upon in a number of studies on geodemographic processes in the territory of modern Crimea [1, 2–7]. Nevertheless, the peculiarities of the dynamics of the population aging process of the peninsula in the Russian period need a more detailed study, including spatial analysis, in the context of municipalities. There are 25 of them in the republic (11 urban districts and 14 rural areas).

The study was based on data from 2014 and 2020 (2021) censuses [8, 9] on the basis of which calculations were made and the classification of municipalities by type of age structure and characteristics of its subtype was carried out, which made it possible to identify a number of features of the dynamics of the population aging process in the Republic of Crimea.

Materials and Methods. We used the Z. Dlugosh method as a working one, which makes it possible to identify the directionality and rate of changes in the age structure through the calculation of the aging dynamics index, which reflects the differences between the proportions of old and young age groups during the study period [10].

To typologize the obtained quantitative values of the aging index, an equal-interval open scale was used, from the work of O.O. Sekitsky-Pavlenko "Typology of transformation of the population age structure of Russian regions", which was also based on the methodology developed by Z. Dlugosh [10, 11].

"The application of this method involved several stages. At the first stage, the population aging index of all municipalities of the Republic of Crimea was calculated (according to the data of 2021), which was calculated as the ratio of the number of people over 60 to the number of children and adolescents (0–14 years old):

$$I_{ag.} = \frac{P_{otwa.}}{P_{ytwa.}} \times 100,$$

where $I_{ag.}$ – aging index; $P_{otwa.}$ – population over working age; $P_{ytwa.}$ – population under working age. The lower the aging index, the younger the population structure" [11, p. 818].

At the second stage, the aging dynamics index was calculated according to the method of Z. Dlugosh [10], which made it possible to determine the vector and intensity of the age structure transformation process. The formula for calculating the aging dynamics index was as follows:

$$W_{SD} = [P_{ytwa.}(t) - P_{ytwa.(t+n)}] + [P_{otwa.(t+n)} - P_{otwa.(t)}],$$

where W_{SD} – aging dynamics index; $P_{ytwa.(t)}$ – proportion of the population under working age at the beginning of the study period; $P_{ytwa.(t+n)}$ – proportion of the population under working age at the end of the study period; $P_{otwa.(t+n)}$ – proportion of the population over working age at the end of the study period; $P_{otwa.(t)}$ – proportion of the population over working age at the beginning of the study period. High index values indicate the intensive process of population aging in a particular municipality, and negative values indicate the process of rejuvenation of the population of this administrative-territorial community.

In the method used, eight types of intensity of demographic aging/rejuvenation are distinguished: 1) rapid aging; 2) active; 3) moderate; 4) slow aging; 5) slow rejuvenation; 6) moderate; 7) active; 8) rapid rejuvenation [10, 12].

Results. Among the municipalities of the Republic of Crimea, the study revealed only four options for the intensity of the transformation process of the age structure: with trends of slow or moderate rejuvenation; slow or moderate aging (Table 1). As a result, each type of age structure corresponds to 4 subtypes characterizing the direction of the ongoing transformations.

The results of calculating the aging index and the aging dynamics index for each of the municipalities of Crimea are presented in Fig. 1. Table 1. The classification of municipalities by vector and degree of intensity of change in the age structure of the population is given.

The calculations made make it possible to attribute the municipalities of the peninsula to the following types of the population age structure: 1) moderately old – 6 (24%); 2) old – 8 (32%); 3) very old – 11 (44%). Administrative entities with the youngest types of age structure of the population on the peninsula are currently absent.

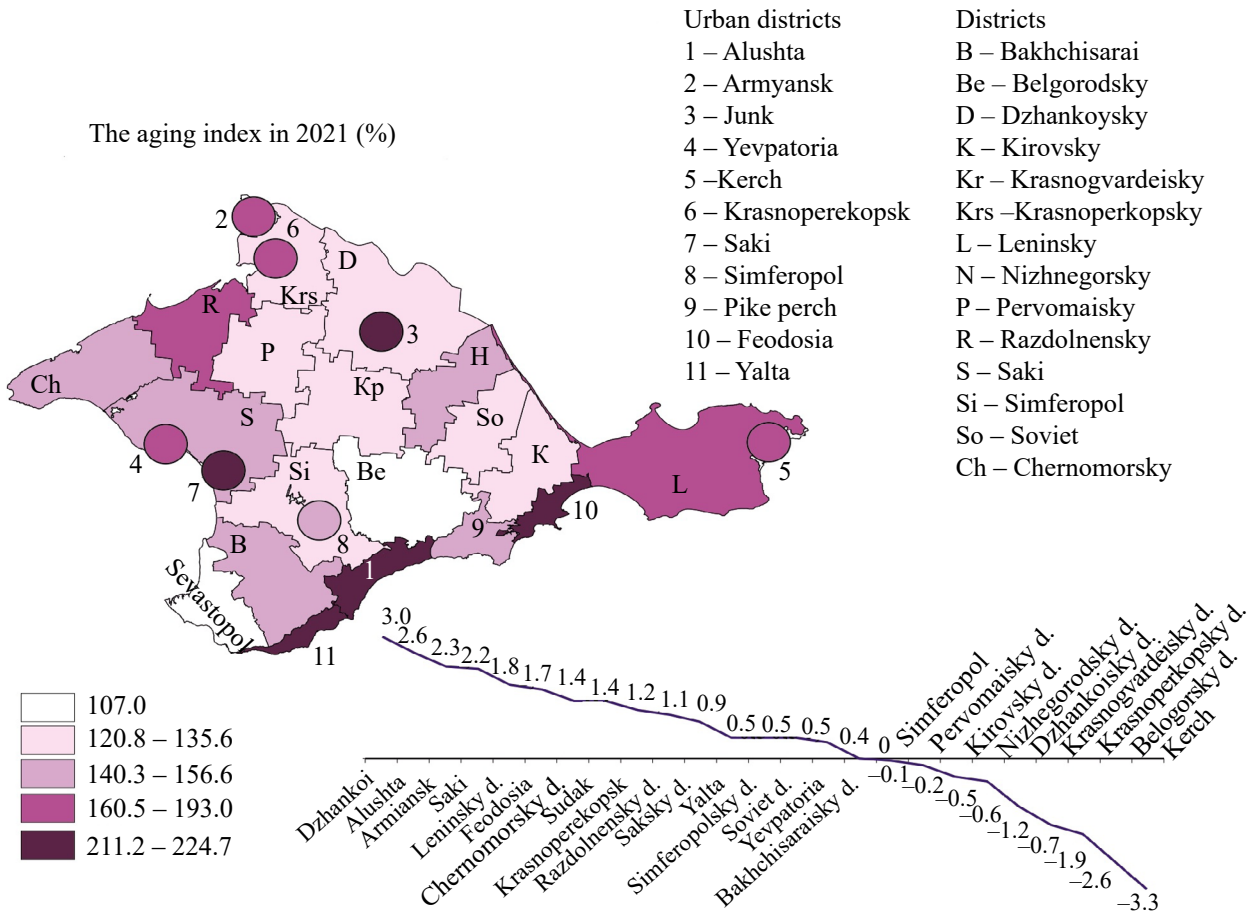

Fig. 1. Indices of aging and dynamics of aging of the population of Crimea in the territorial context (by municipalities)[1]

Table 1

Typology of municipalities of the Republic of Crimea according to the degree of intensity and direction of transformation of the age structure of the population[2]

Age structure type	Aging index value	Age structure dynamics	Municipal units
Very young	*I old.* (*X*) < *I old.* (40.0)	–	–
Young	*I old.* (40.1) ≤ *I old.* (*X*) < *I old.* (70.0)	–	–
On the eve of old age	*I old.* (70.1) ≤ *I old.* (*X*) < *I old.* (100.0)	–	–
Moderately old	*I old.* (100.1) ≤ *I old.* (*X*) < *I old.* (130.0)	Slow rejuvenation trend	Krasnoperekopsky District; Dzhankoy District; Krasnogvardeisky District
		Moderate rejuvenation trend	Belogorsky District
		Slow ageing trend	Simferopol District; Sovetsky District
		Moderate aging trend	–

[1] Calculated as per: [8, 9].
[2] Calculated as per: [8, 9].

End of Table 1

Age structure type	Aging index value	Age structure dynamics	Municipal units
Old	*I old.* (130.1) ≤ *I old.* (*X*) < *I old.* (160.0)	Slow rejuvenation trend	Bakhchisarai District; Kirovsky District; Pervomaisky District; Simferopol City District; Nizhnegorsky District
		Moderate rejuvenation trend	–
		Slow ageing trend	Saksky District; Sudak Urban District; Black Sea Region
		Moderate aging trend	–
Very old	*I old.* (160.1) ≤ *I old.* (*X*)	Slow rejuvenation trend	–
		Moderate rejuvenation trend	Kerch Urban District
		Slow ageing trend	Razdolnensky District; Evpatoria Urban District; Krasnoperekopsk Urban District; Yalta Urban District; Alushta Urban District; Armyansk Urban District; Saki Urban District; Feodosia Urban District; Leninsky District
		Moderate aging trend	Dzhankoy Urban District

The study revealed 9 municipalities of the republic with a tendency to rejuvenate the age structure (2 urban districts and 7 districts). It should be noted that only three of them have recorded positive quantitative dynamics of the population over the past five years (Kerch, Belogorsky and Kirovsky districts). In all three cases, it was provided by migration inflow of population [13] (Table 2).

Table 2

Migration balance of the population of municipalities of the Republic of Crimea, 2017–2021 (‰)[3]

Municipalities	Migration balance of the population of municipalities of the Republic of Crimea (‰)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Alushta Urban District	14.9	11.3	14.50	13.6	12.2
Armyansk Urban District	–4.1	–5.1	–0.30	2.4	10.4
Dzhankoy Urban District	6.2	–1.3	–2.40	4.2	–4.3
Evpatoria Urban District	9.0	11.3	7.80	11.4	9.6
Kerch Urban District	13.0	9.8	11.40	13.9	4.6
Krasnoperekopsk Urban District	–6.4	–5.4	–2.40	4.5	5.2
Saki Urban District	2.8	4.4	6.10	5.1	10.8
Simferopol City District	3.9	–0.2	1.38	–4.8	2.7
Sudak Urban District	4.8	2.2	–4.80	–1.1	–3.0
Feodosia Urban District	7.5	7.9	6.90	10.3	17.9
Yalta Urban District	7.2	6.2	3.70	7.6	7.8
Bakhchisarai District	–7.8	–6.8	6.80	6.2	1.3

[3] Calculated as per: [13].

End of Table 2

Municipalities	Migration balance of the population of municipalities of the Republic of Crimea (‰)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Belogorsky District	1.1	0.0	3.80	0.5	5.5
Dzhankoy District	–7.9	–6.7	–2.60	0.9	–2.9
Kirovsky District	6.7	6.2	4.40	1.5	3.8
Krasnogvardeisky District	0.6	–2.4	0.00	4.6	4.1
Krasnoperekopsky District	–8.5	–3.1	–4.20	0.4	–0.8
Leninsky District	–6.0	–4.1	–1.70	– 2.4	–8.6
Nizhnegorsky District	–7.0	–3.4	3.60	5.8	3.0
Pervomaisky District	–10.2	–12.5	–6.10	2.4	–1.5
Razdolnensky District	–0.9	–2.6	–2.50	8.4	9.3
Saksky District	6.3	4.7	11.30	9.2	12.8
Simferopol District	15.0	8.0	8.50	14.8	19.8
Sovetsky District	–3.4	– 2.8	–2.90	–2.9	–0.3
Black Sea Region	8.5	5.9	8.10	15.7	22.2

The distribution of municipalities with a rejuvenation trend across the peninsula does not reveal a clear zoning in this process (Fig. 2). Any resettlement specifics are also not recorded in this process.

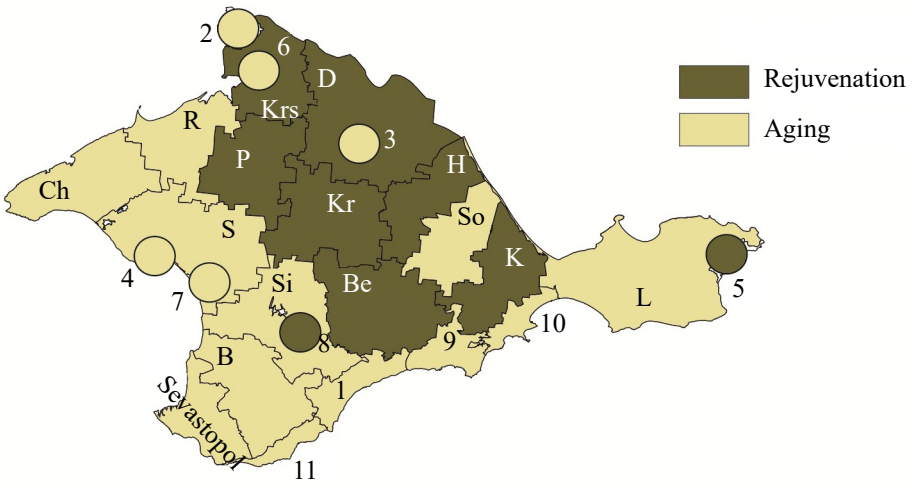

Fig. 2. Dynamics of the Crimean population aging process by municipalities, 2014–2021[4]

It should be noted that the analysis of the dynamics of population aging of such a multi-ethnic society as Crimea should take into account the specifics of the ethnodemographic structure of each municipality and shifts in the ratio of leading national groups. For the republic, the analysis of the dynamics of three most numerous peoples, Russians, Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians, who have serious specifics of their age structure and tangible sociodemographic features, is of decisive importance (Fig. 3).

The age structure of the Crimean Tatars is distinguished by a uniform distribution of the population across 10-year cohorts, recorded both in 2014 and in 2021, with enough young average age of 33.2 years. The structure of the Ukrainian population of the peninsula is the oldest. In the mid-2010s its median age has already exceeded 50 years. The proportion of elderly people (60 +) was approaching a third. The age pyramid of the Russian people occupied an intermediate position, in its form somewhat more gravitating to the pyramid of the Ukrainian community – a reduced proportion of younger generations and a specific dominant of older ages (people 60 + made up almost 22%).

[4] Calculated as per: [8, 9].

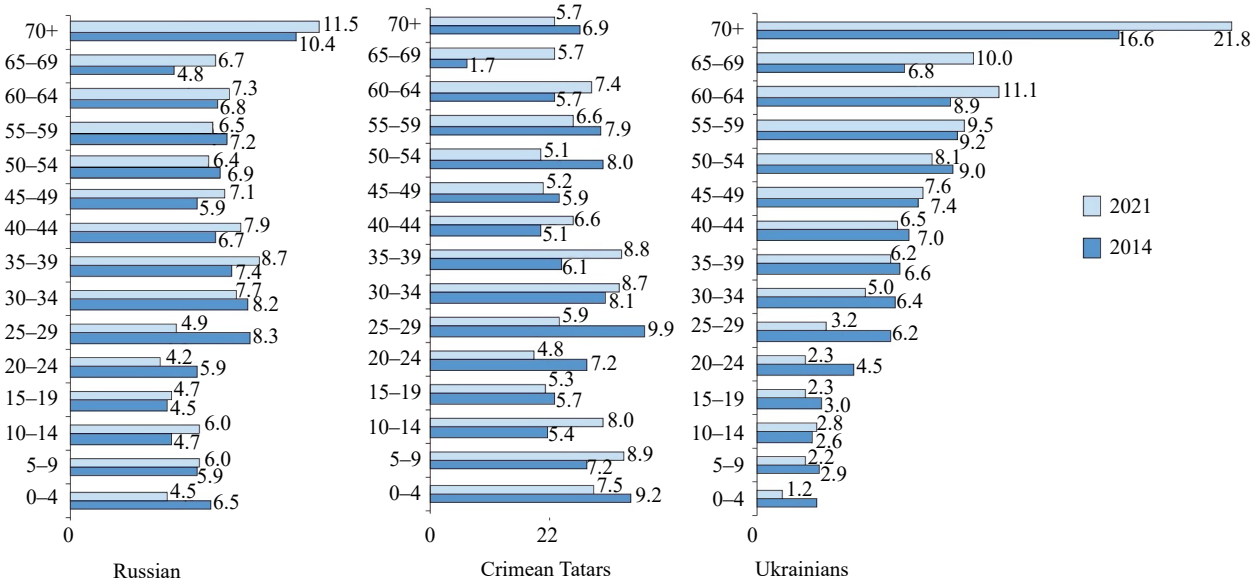

Fig. 3. Age structure of the three leading national communities of the Republic of Crimea, 2014–2021 (%)[5]

In the period between the last two censuses, the Ukrainian population of Crimea showed the maximum rate of aging. The share of elderly people in its composition increased from 32.3 to 42.9%, with a parallel compression of children and youth generations (0–19 years old) from 11.4 to 8.8%, youth (20–29 years old) from 10.7 to 5.5%.

The median age of representatives of the Ukrainian community of the peninsula for 2014–2021 increased by 6 years (from 50.3 to 56.3), which significantly exceeded the rate of aging of the other two leading national groups of Crimea, among the Russian and Crimean Tatars this indicator added 2.8 and 2.3 years, respectively (Fig. 4).

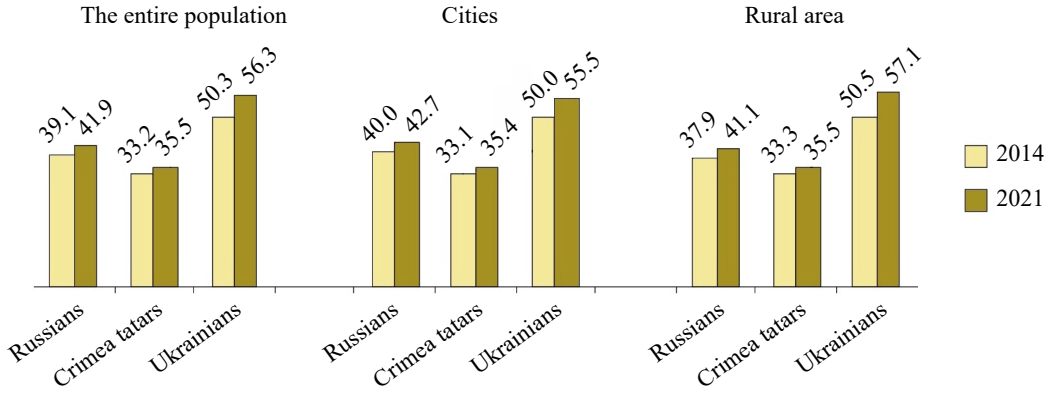

Fig. 4. Dynamics of median age of leading national communities in the Republic of Crimea, 2014–2021 (number of years)[6]

Analyzing the changes in the ethnic structure of the population in municipalities with a tendency to rejuvenate the age structure, we can conclude that this trend was largely due to a large-scale decline in local Ukrainian communities (as the oldest national group). In all territorial communities that showed a rejuvenation trend, the number of Ukrainians over the analyzed 7-year period decreased by 40–57%. The rapid decline of the majority of the territorial Ukrainian communities of the peninsula in 2014–2021 could be explained by various factors: the outflow to Ukraine (the most intense in 2014); increased mortality associated with a high proportion of the old and elderly population; a change in the identity of some Ukrainians and representatives of the mixed Russian-Ukrainian population in the new socio-political conditions. Only the first two factors worked to rejuvenate the age structure of the population. An additional condition, as a rule, was a noticeable quantitative growth of the Russian population and, especially, the Crimean Tatars (Table 3).

[5] Calculated as per: [8, 9].
[6] Calculated as per: [8, 9].

Table 3

Increase/decrease in the number of the largest ethnic groups in municipalities with a tendency to rejuvenate the age structure (2014–2021)[7]

Municipalities	Ethnic groups (increase/decrease in number, % of 2014 values)		
	Russians	Crimean Tatars	Ukrainians
Kerch Urban District	6.90	–6.91	–56.62
Simferopol Urban District	1.31	–3.12	–52.63
Bakhchisarai District	14.52	18.72	–50.52
Belogorsky District	17.87	17.32	–51.34
Dzhankoy District	20.95	0.16	–46.48
Kirovsky District	7.21	9.17	–51.99
Krasnogvardeisky District	15.93	7.98	–51.48
Krasnoperekopsky District	38.35	19.53	–39.72
Nizhnegorsky District	5.52	5.93	–44.17
Pervomaisky District	25.59	14.33	–48.02
Sudak Urban District	21.00	0.24	–45.40

In municipalities with the aging trend of the age structure, the dynamics of the national composition was multidirectional, not allowing to record any clear correlation between these two processes, which was also generally natural, since the pace and vector of transformation of the population age structure of the territorial communities in Crimea represented the resulting group of factors, the overall composition of which was noticeably different for each of these administrative formations. This statement, however, does not negate the conclusion that the ethnodemographic factor plays a significant role in the dynamics of the population age structure of municipalities (Table 4).

Table 4

Increase/decrease in the number of the largest ethnic groups in municipalities with an aging trend in the age structure (2014–2021)[8]

Municipalities	Ethnic groups (increase/decrease in number, % of 2014 values)		
	Russians	Crimean Tatars	Ukrainians
Alushta Urban District	26.25	–8.53	–52.60
Armyansk Urban District	1.60	–6.25	–42.13
Dzhankoy Urban District	5.54	–22.05	–54.34
Evpatoria Urban District	7.85	7.02	–53.99
Krasnoperekopsk Urban District	21.59	44.89	–41.88
Saki Urban District	3.16	4.38	–36.57
Feodosia Urban District	–5.18	5.41	–55.50
Yalta Urban District	2.01	–24.38	–63.56
Leninsky District	12.75	21.56	–55.48
Saksky District	15.93	–2.58	–41.77
Simferopol District	21.07	21.65	–43.63
Sovetsky District	9.00	5.07	–45.87
Black Sea Region	13.22	1.35	–51.38

[7] Calculated as per: [8, 9].
[8] Calculated as per: [8, 9].

Discussion and Conclusion. According to the results of the study, all municipalities of Crimea without exception are characterized by the old age structure of their population, ranging from moderately old to very old (24% – moderately old structure; 32% – old age structure; 44% – very old age structure). Among them there is a tendency to rejuvenate the age structure (2 urban districts and 7 districts) in 9 municipalities of the republic.

In the ethnodemographic composition of the population of municipalities, the most significant for their age structure was the ratio of three leading nationalities: Russians, Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars (first of all, we are talking about Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars). An increased proportion of Ukrainians determined the belonging of the territorial community to the group of old types of the population age structure, Crimean Tatars to one of the young types (from among those present on the peninsula).

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